

May 15, 2013

The Honorable Luke Messer
U.S. House of Representatives
508 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Messer,

On behalf of the American Council on Education, and our approximately 1,800 college, university and higher education association members, I write to express our views regarding H.R. 1949, the Improving Postsecondary Education Data for Students Act.

H.R. 1949 would direct the Secretary of Education to convene an “Advisory Committee on Improving Postsecondary Education Data” to study existing federal, state and other transparency initiatives and make recommendations for improving and streamlining these efforts.

Your legislation represents an important step forward in ensuring that students have the information they need to make an informed choice about the college or university best suited to their needs. We are pleased that the Advisory Committee created under your legislation would represent institutions of higher education from across all sectors, and would be required to solicit input directly from students and families about the information most useful to them. We are also pleased that the Advisory Committee would be charged with studying the costs of current federal transparency initiatives to institutions, as well as how these costs could be minimized while still providing useful data to students.

As Congress prepares for the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the introduction of your legislation is timely. We believe that the recommendations that would be developed by the Advisory Committee would provide a valuable resource for the members of the House Education and the Workforce Committee in their upcoming deliberations.

We thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of our nation’s colleges and universities and the students they serve.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

MCB/law